

Appln No. 10/500,188
Amdt date September 25, 2008
Reply to Office action of June 27, 2008

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-37 are pending in the application, of which claims 1-30 and 34-37 are withdrawn from consideration.

Applicants have replaced the title of the application so that the title corresponds to the elected species, claims 31-33.

Applicants have amended the specification to correct several reference numbers so that the reference numbers correspond with those shown in FIGS. 44A-45B.

Claims 31 and 32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Lam (US 5,607,444). Applicants have amended claim 31 to recite "an anchor element along a surface of the balloon and configured to maintain the shape of the balloon in the deployed state." Lam does not teach or suggest an anchor element as recited in claim 31. Therefore, Applicants believe that claims 31 and 32 are patentable over Lam.

Claim 33 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Lam in view of Zadno-Azizi (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0052638). In rejecting claim 33, the Examiner asserts on page 3 of the Office action that Zadno-Azizi discloses in paragraphs [0200]-[0205] an anchor within the balloon for the purpose of keeping the balloon inflated. Referring to FIGS. 37-43 and 46-50 of Zadno-Azizi and paragraphs 0200-0205, a therapeutic balloon 809 and occlusion balloons 669, 711 are shown. However, in contrast to the Examiner's assertion, Zadno-Azizi does not teach or suggest an anchor on or within the balloons 809, 669 and 711 for the purpose of keeping the balloon inflated. The occlusion balloons 669 and 711 are inflated to prevent blood flow through the vessel. *See paragraph [0194] of Zadno-Azizi.* The therapeutic balloon 809 is then inflated and deflated at a particular site to compress the plaque which forms the stenosis 782 at the site. *See paragraph [00198] of Zadno-Azizi.* Therefore, Applicants believe that claim 33 is patentable over Lam in view of Zadno-Azizi.

With respect to claim 31, Applicants submit that the device of Zadno-Azizi does not have an anchor element along the surface of any of the balloons 809, 669 and 711 and configured to maintain the shape of the balloon in the deployed state. As discussed above, the occlusion

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balloons 669 and 711 are inflated to prevent blood flow through the vessel, and the therapeutic balloon 809 is then inflated and deflated at a particular site to compress the plaque forming the stenosis 782. Therefore, claims 31 and 32 are also patentable over Lam in view of Zadno-Azizi.

Applicants believe that claims 31-33 are now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
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